

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended in the manner suggested to address the objections.

Claim 1 has been amended to omit the subject matter of original claim 2, which was cancelled in the last action, and to include limitations which are believed to distinguish claim 1 more clearly over the cited reference to Orain. In particular, claim 1 now recites that at least some of the plurality of rollers are spaced axially along the inner shaft relative to others of the rollers, as clearly illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification. While Orain may have multiple sets of rollers, they all lie in a plane common to the axes of the four rollers. There is no teaching or suggestion of spacing the rollers axially from one another and it is not clear whether the joint of Orain could continue performing its intended function as a constant velocity joint if the joint were so modified. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 1 as amended distinguishes applicant's invention patentably over Orain and should be allowed. Newly presented claims 12-16 are dependent on claim 1 and further distinguish the applicant's invention in connection with the axial spacing of the rollers.

Newly presented claim 17 recites a slip shaft assembly having an inner shaft which extends lengthwise within a tubular outer shaft and includes a plurality of rollers which are mounted on the inner shaft about respective roller axis that are transverse to a longitudinal axis of the inner shaft. Claim 17 further recites that at least some of the rollers are axially spaced and support the shafts against relative pivotal movement. The rollers of Orain are all contained in a common plane which enables the joint of Orain to plunge as well as pivot or angulate. There is no teaching or suggestion to modify the arrangement of the rollers of Orain in such manner as to meet the limitations of claim 17, and it is respectfully submitted that doing so would inhibit the ability of the joint to angulate and operate as a constant velocity joint as described in Orain. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 17 distinguishes applicant's invention patentably over the prior art of record including Orain and should be allowed.

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It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.


The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date




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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/613,337 filed July 3, 2003 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on October 19, 2004.


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